

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of immunologically measuring the human medullasin content in blood [characterized by] comprising the following steps (a) and (b):

(a) [a step of] breaking up the leukocytes in a blood sample by contacting said blood sample with the following aqueous liquids (i) or (ii) or an aqueous liquid mixture of (i) and (ii)

(iii) an aqueous liquid having an osmotic pressure of 250mOsm/kg·H₂O or less or an aqueous liquid having an osmotic pressure of 310mOsm/kg·H₂O or more;

(iv) an aqueous liquid comprising a hemolysate; and

(b) immunologically determining the amount of human medullasin released into said blood sample from the leukocytes broken up in said step (a) using an anti-human medullasin antibody.

8. (Amended) The method of immunologically measuring the human medullasin content in blood according to claim 1 wherein said step (b) of immunologically determining the content of human medullasin in said blood sample comprises contacting the blood sample

containing said human medullasin released from the leukocytes broken up in said step (a) with an anti-human medullasin antibody immobilized to an insoluble carrier in the presence of a labelled anti-human medullasin antibody to form a sandwich complex and to [captur] capture the human medullasin on a labelled immuno complex by an antigen-antibody reaction, and then determining the amount of activity of the label material in said complex.